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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Draft Platform for Action

Addendum

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

E. Advance peace, promote conflict resolution and reduce
the impacts of armed or other conflict on women

New 100. [An environment which maintains world peace and promotes [universal] human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, upholding the principles of non-threat or use of force and of mutual respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty is a precondition for the advancement of women. Without peace, there will be no equality or development. Armed and other types of conflicts have not decreased since the end of the cold war; aggression, [foreign occupation] ethnic and religious and [other types of] conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women in nearly every region. Terrorism is a new and emerging global phenomenon. International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, is systematically ignored; human rights are being violated by [all] parties in armed conflicts. It has resulted in serious violation of the human rights of women, including murder, torture, political conflicts, systematic rape, forced pregnancies, especially in ethnic cleansing as a strategy of war and its consequences. Some of these situations of armed conflict have their origin in the conquest or colonialization of a country by another country or State and the perpetuation of that colonial situation through State and military repression.]



New 100 bis. The Fourth Geneva Convention, of 1949 [and its Additional Protocols] mandate[s] protection of civilian persons in time of war, including that "women shall especially be protected against attacks on their honour ... in particular against humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution or any form of indecent assault". The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights further states that "violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law". Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or summary and arbitrary detention, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, denials of economic, social and cultural rights and religious intolerance. Violations of human rights in situations of armed conflict and military occupation are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law as embodied in international human rights instruments and in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its Additional Protocols. (Note: Australia proposes moving new para. 100 bis to new 100.)

100 bis. [Humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, and international human rights law, are systematically ignored and violated by armed and security forces and other parties to armed conflicts.] Civilian victims, mostly women and children, often outnumber casualties among combatants. In addition, women often become caregivers for injured combatants and find themselves, as a result of conflict, unexpectedly cast as sole manager of household, sole parent, and caretaker of elderly relatives.

101. In a world of continuing instability and violence, the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security is urgently needed. [In implementing cooperative approaches to peace and security issues, emphasis [should] [this requires that] be given to preventive strategies and to peace building as a particular prevention-oriented concept. Involving the wider social group, including women, in the development and implementation of these strategies should be a priority for Governments and the international community. The perspectives of women would provide a more constructive approach to the use of power and to the resolution of conflict.] Although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping, and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms, they still remain underrepresented in decision-making positions. If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making.

102. While entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict, terrorism and [foreign occupation], women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their [sex/gender]. Parties to conflict often rape women with impunity, sometimes including systematic rape as a tactic of war and terrorism. The impact of violence against women and violation of the human rights of women in such situations is experienced by women of all ages who suffer from displacement, loss of home and property, loss or involuntary disappearance of close relatives, poverty and family separation and

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disintegration, and who are victims of acts of murder, terrorism, torture, involuntary disappearances, sexual slavery, rape [and its consequences], sexual abuse, and [forced pregnancy], especially in the forms of policies of ethnic cleansing and other new and emerging forms of violence. This is compounded by the life-long social, economic and psychologically traumatic consequences of armed conflict and [foreign occupation].

102 dis. Women and children constitute some 80 per cent of the 23 million refugees and of the 26 million [internally] displaced persons in the world. They are threatened by deprivation of property, goods and services, and deprivation of their [basic] right to return to their homes of origin as well as by violence and insecurity. Particular attention should be paid to sexual violence against uprooted women and girls employed as a method of persecution in systematic campaigns of terror and intimidation and forcing members of a particular ethnic, cultural or religious group to flee their homes. [Women may also be forced to flee because of [gender-based/through sexual violence,] persecution and they continue to be vulnerable to violence and exploitation while in flight, in countries of asylum and resettlement, and during and after repatriation. Women often experience difficulty in some countries of asylum in being recognized as refugees on the grounds of [gender-based/through sexual violence] persecution.]

102 ter. Refugee, displaced and migrant women [in most cases] display strength, endurance and resourcefulness and can contribute positively to countries of resettlement, or on return to their countries of origin, and they need to be appropriately involved in decisions affecting them.

103. Many women's non-governmental organizations have called for reductions in military expenditures world wide, as well as international trade, trafficking and proliferation of weapons. Those affected most negatively by conflict [excessive military spending] are people living in poverty, who are deprived because of the lack of investment in basic services. Women living in poverty, and particularly rural women, also suffer from the effects of the use of arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects. There are more than one hundred million anti-personnel land-mines scattered in 64 countries globally. [Excessive military spending is one of the main constraints for development.] [At the same time, maintenance of national security and peace [is an important factor] [is essential] for economic growth and development and the empowerment of women.] (Note: Social Summit para. 70.)

103 dis. [International stability and security are prerequisites for economic growth and development. In the new international setting, military strength is no guarantee of security. The effects of mass migration, crime, the drug problem, disease, human rights violations, environmental degradation, pressures of population growth and underdevelopment transcend national borders. These new challenges to peace and security have implications at the local, regional and global levels.]

104. During times of armed conflict and the collapse of communities, the role of women is crucial. They often work to preserve social order in the midst of armed and other conflicts. [Women make an important but often unrecognized contribution as peace educators both in the family/families and society.]

New 104 big. Education to foster a culture of peace that upholds justice and tolerance for all nations and peoples is essential to attaining lasting peace and should be begun at an early age. It should include elements of conflict resolution, mediation, reduction of prejudice, and respect for diversity.

104 big. In addressing armed or other conflicts, an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes should be promoted so that before decisions are taken an analysis is made of the effects on women and men respectively.

Strategic objective E.1. Increase and strengthen the participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making and leadership in peace and security activities and protect women in armed and other conflicts including [foreign occupation]

Actions to be taken

105. By Governments and international and regional intergovernmental institutions:

- (a) [Take action to establish a critical mass to promote gender balance and to ensure equal participation of women with due regard to equitable geographical distribution numerically at all levels and ensure that opportunities are made available for qualified women to participate in all United Nations forums and peace activities at ambassadorial and decision-making levels, including the United Nations Secretariat;]
 - (b) Strengthen the role of women and increase the percentage of women at all decision-making levels in national and international institutions which may make or influence policy with regard to matters related to peace-keeping, [peace building, fact-finding and preventive diplomacy activities,] [including observer missions] and in all stages of peace mediation and negotiations; [in line with the specific recommendations by the Secretary-General in his "Strategic Plan of Action for the Improvement of the Status of Women, 1995-2000;"]
 - (d) Integrate a [gender perspective] in the result of armed or other conflicts in [foreign occupation] and aim for gender balance when promoting candidates for judicial and other positions in such international bodies as war crime tribunals, [including the United Nations International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda,] the International Court of Justice [as well as others related to peaceful settlement of disputes.]
- (New (d) big.) Ensure that these bodies are able to properly address gender issues by providing appropriate training to prosecutors and judges and other officials on handling cases involving rape [and its consequences], [forced pregnancy], indecent assault and other forms of violence against women [in armed conflicts and foreign occupation and integrate a gender perspective into their work.] Strengthen the

participation of women in processes of national reconciliation and reconstruction after all forms of conflict.

Strategic objective E.2. [Reduce military expenditures and control the availability of armaments] [Reduce and eliminate the availability of instruments of violence against women]

Actions to be taken

106. By Governments:

- (a) Increase and hasten, as appropriate to national security considerations, the conversion of military resources and related industries to [development/peaceful] purposes;
- (b) Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and arms trade, and investments for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to allow possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development; (Social Summit, commitment 9, para. (g));
- (c) [Submit data to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, consider expanding the Register to widen the scope of weapons covered.] Improve the universality of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as an effective measure for building confidence at the global level. [and include in their annual reports information on military holdings and procurement through national production;] Register, and ultimately eliminate, offensive weapons development, production, deployment and sales and, as a first step, expand the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to include production and marketing], making reporting obligatory, and to include all types of weapons, such as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;
- (c) big. [Recognize and address the dangers to society of armed conflict, the excessive production and illicit trade of arms, linked to money-laundering and the sale of arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, terrorism, violence, crime, the production and use, recognizing similarly trafficking, of illicit drugs and trafficking in women and children.] While acknowledging legitimate national defence needs, the dangers to society of armed conflict, the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms, especially of those arms that are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition should be recognized and addressed. Similarly, the need to combat illicit arms trafficking, violence, crime, the production, use and trafficking of illicit drugs, and trafficking in women and children should be recognized; (Social Summit, chap. V, para. 70).

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- (d) [Immediately adopt/Consider the adoption of] a moratorium on the export and planting of anti-personnel land-mines, and facilitate the transfer of mine clearance technology without restriction or discrimination; and undertake to destroy current stockpiles of anti-personnel land-mines; promote assistance in mine clearance, in particular to promote scientific research aimed at rapid advancement of mine detection and clearance technology, and consider ratifying the 1981 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, including its Protocol II on the Use of Mines;
- (e) [Promote the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons.]

Strategic objective E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations

Actions to be taken

106 bis. By Governments:

- () Consider the ratification of or accession to international instruments containing provisions relative to the protection of women and children in armed conflicts, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Conflicts and the Additional Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts;
- () Respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, and take all measures required for the protection of women and children, in particular against rape, forced prostitution and any other form of indecent assault.

107. By Governments and international and regional organizations:

- (new (a) bis.) Reaffirm the right of self-determination of all peoples, in particular of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right, as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights;
- (a) Encourage diplomacy, [preventive diplomacy,] negotiation and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in particular Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4;
- (c) [Consider the establishment of a special United Nations unit for third-party conflict prevention and resolution and the gender composition of any such unit;]

- (c) bis. Urge the identification and condemnation of the systematic practice of rape and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment of women as a deliberate instrument of war and ethnic cleansing and take steps to assure that full assistance is provided to the victims of such abuse for their physical and mental rehabilitation (Cairo, 4.10);
- (d) [Declare that rape in the conduct of armed conflict can constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity and under certain circumstances may constitute an act of genocide, and take all measures required for the protection of women and children, and strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish rape, and other such acts;]

(New (d) bis (formerly (g) ter)) Uphold and reinforce standards set out in international humanitarian and international human rights instruments to prevent all forms of violence against women in situations of armed and other types of conflict and undertake full investigations of all acts of violence against women committed during war, in particular [systematic rape] and sexual slavery, prosecute all criminals responsible for war crimes against women and provide full redress to women victims;

(d) bis. [Call upon the international community to condemn and act against terrorism;]

() Take action to investigate and punish members of the police, security, armed forces and others who perpetrate acts of violence against women, violations of [international humanitarian law,] and violations of the human rights of women [who violates the human rights of women] in situations of armed conflict;

(g) Take into account gender-sensitive concerns in developing training programmes for all relevant personnel on international humanitarian law and [international] human rights awareness and recommend such training for those involved in United Nations peace-keeping and humanitarian aid, with a particular view to preventing violence against women.

(g) bis. [Encourage the elimination of and abstain from adopting unilateral coercive measures, in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that go against the population of affected countries and, in particular, women and that could provoke situations leading to conflicts.]

(g) ter. [Take measures in accordance with international law [and legitimacy] with a view to alleviating the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children.]

Strategic objective E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace

Actions to be taken

108. By Governments, international and regional intergovernmental institutions and non-governmental organizations:

- (a) Promote peaceful conflict resolution and peace, reconciliation and tolerance through education, training, community actions and youth exchange programmes in particular for young women;
- (b) Give priority in the support provided to research institutions and agencies, to programmes and projects related to peace and security that take into account gender and encourage images of men and boys that reward non-violent conflict resolution;
- (c) [Use future/During future] reviews of the implementation of the plan of action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), take into account the results of the Fourth World Conference on Women;
- (d) Encourage the future development of peace research involving the participation of women to examine the impact of armed conflict on women and children, and the nature and contribution of women's participation in national, regional and international peace movements; engage in research and identify innovative mechanisms for containing violence and for conflict resolution for public dissemination, for use by women and men;
- (d) big Develop and disseminate research on the physical, psychological, economic and social effects of armed conflicts on women, particularly young women and girls, with a view to developing policies and programmes to address the consequences of conflicts.

Strategic objective E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee and displaced women [including internationally displaced women]

Actions to be taken

109. By Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other institutions involved in providing protection, assistance and training to refugees and [internally] displaced persons, inter alia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, as appropriate;

- (a) Take steps to ensure that women are fully involved in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all short-term and long-term projects and programmes providing assistance to refugees and [internally] displaced women, including the management of refugee camps and resources. Ensure that refugees and displaced women and girls have direct access to services provided.

- (a) bis Offer adequate protection and assistance to displaced women and children within their country and find solutions to the root causes of their displacement in view of preventing it and, when appropriate, facilitate return or resettlement; (Cairo, 9.20)
- (b) Take steps to protect the safety and physical integrity of refugee and [internally] displaced women during their displacement and upon their return to their communities of origin, including programmes of rehabilitation; take effective measures to protect from violence women who are refugees or displaced hold an impartial and thorough investigation of any such violations and bring those responsible to justice;
- (b) bis [Take all the necessary steps to ensure the right of refugee and displaced women to safe and protected return to their homes;]
- (b) ter (formerly (e) bis) Take measures, at the national level with international cooperation as appropriate, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to find lasting solutions to questions related to internally displaced women, including their right to voluntary and safe return to their home of origin; (Cairo, 9.25) (Social Summit Programme of Action, para. 76 (d))
- (c) [Take account of the specific needs and resources of refugee and displaced women and children, especially their access to appropriate and adequate food, water, shelter and health care services including reproductive health services, in the provision of emergency relief and longer term assistance] [Ensure that the international community and the international organizations provide financial and other resources to Governments in [countries of asylum] in order to provide emergency relief and longer term assistance that takes into account the specific needs and resources of refugee and displaced women and children, especially their access to appropriate and adequate food, water, shelter and health care services including reproductive health services] [including vaccinations; provision of basic medicines and medicines related to tropical diseases, such as malaria and typhoid fever; full maternity care, including prenatal and postnatal care; dental care; and reproductive health care];
- (c) bis Facilitate the availability of educational material, in the appropriate language, also in emergency situations in order to minimize disruption of schooling among refugee and displaced children;
- (d) Apply international norms to ensure equal access and equal treatment of women and men in refugee determination procedures and the granting of asylum, including full respect and strict observation of the principle of non-refoulement [particularly for women and child refugees] through, inter alia, bringing national immigration regulations into conformity with relevant international instruments, and consider [gender factors in] recognizing as refugees those women whose claim to refugee status is based [upon well-founded fear of persecution through sexual violence/gender factors for] [on] reasons

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enumerated in the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol and provide access to specially trained officers, including female officials, to interview women regarding sensitive or painful experiences, such as sexual assault;

- (d) big [Support and promote efforts] by States towards [Consider] the development of criteria and guidelines on responses to persecution specifically aimed at women, by sharing information on States' initiatives to develop such criteria and guidelines and by monitoring to ensure their fair and consistent application;
- (e) Promote the self-reliant capacities of refugee and [internally] displaced women, and provide programmes for women, particularly young women, in leadership and decision-making within refugee and returnee communities;
- (f) Ensure that the human rights of refugee and displaced women are protected and that refugee and displaced women are made aware of these rights. Ensure that the vital importance of family reunification is recognized;
- new (f) Consider establishing educational programmes for girls and boys to foster a culture of peace, focusing on conflict resolution. [These programmes should promote, among other things, positive models for men and boys that encourage them to use non-violent means to settle conflicts.]
- (g) ^{pe} [Adopt special measures as appropriate to provide women who have been determined to be refugees with vocational/professional training programmes, including in those programmes language training, small-scale enterprise development training, planning and counselling on all forms of violence against women, including rehabilitation programmes for victims of torture and trauma, and substantially increase the international contribution to general programmes for assistance to refugees particularly in countries which host the largest number of refugees;] (see Social Summit Programme of Action, paras. 27 and 76 (c)).
- (i) Raise public awareness of the contribution made by refugee women to their countries of resettlement; promote understanding of their human rights and of their needs and abilities; and encourage mutual understanding and acceptance through educational programmes promoting cross-cultural and interracial harmony;
- new (j) [Provide basic and support services to women who are displaced from their place of origin as a result of terrorism, violence, drug trafficking or other reasons linked to violence situations;]
- new (k) Develop awareness of women's [international] human rights and provide, as appropriate, human rights education and training to military and police personnel operating in armed conflict areas and areas where there are refugees;

109 bis. By Governments:

- (c) Disseminate and implement the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the Guidelines on Evaluation and Care of Victims of Trauma and Violence, or similar guidance, in close cooperation with refugee women, in all sectors of refugee programmes;
- (g) [Protect women and children who migrate as family members from abuse or denial of their human rights by sponsors and consider extending their stay, should the family relationship dissolve, within the limits of national legislation;]

New strategic objective E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies

Actions to be taken

109 bis. By Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations:

- new (a) [Support and promote the recognition and implementation of the universal right of all peoples to self-determination and ensure that, by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development, taking into account the interests of the women from the colonies and providing special programmes in leadership and in training for decision-making;]
 - new (b) [Raise public awareness through the mass media, education at all levels and special programmes to create a better understanding of the situation of women of the colonies;]
-